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Belpet Rural District Council

Annual Report

Medical Officer of Health

Year 1940

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN

MB, BSc, FRCGP, FRCR, FRCR (S), FRCR (P)

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS

Sanitary Inspector

W. H. ALLEN

Sanitary Inspector

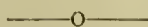
W. H. ALLEN

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BELPER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Chairman : J. E. CRESSWELL, Kilburn

Vice-Chairman : T. COOKE, South Wingfield.

MEMBERS.

<i>Parish</i>		<i>Councillor</i>
Crich	....	E. A. Ashman
Pentrich	....	R. Atkinson
Kedleston & Quarndon	....	G. H. Beeson
Duffield.	....	J. Bowmer
Alderwasley	....	W. Bowmer
Allestree	....	E. R. Bullough
Allestree	....	W. F. Rathbone
South Wingfield	....	W. Carlin
Turnditch and Windley	....	H. E. Currey
Idridgehay & Ashleyhay	....	W. Deaville
Denby	....	J. H. Dix
Smalley	....	H. H. Dix
Weston Underwood	....	J. Gregory
Duffield	....	H. F. Hawley
Horsley Woodhouse	....	S. Hebb
Mapperley	....	C. Hill
Denby	....	W. D. Jeffery
Shipley	....	J. W. Knowles
Crich	....	F. J. Lynam
Holbrook	....	S. Sheldon
Kirk Langley & Mackworth	....	H. W. Smith
Darley Abbey	....	W. D. Stevens
Shottle	....	J. Sutton
Hazelwood	....	H. Swift
Kilburn	....	G. Vicker <i>P</i>
Dethick Lea & Holloway	....	L. Waud
Horsley	....	E. Woodward

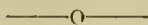
Statistical Summary.

Area of District in acres—	....	....	....	48,118
Rateable Value	....	....	....	£154,592
Product of a Penny Rate	....	....	....	£667 - 14 - 7
Total debt for all purposes	....	....	....	£259,603 - 14 - 7
Debt for housing only	....	....	....	£135,967 - 5 - 11

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Population for the Year 1931	....	....	42,530
Estimated Population for 1940	....	....	29,000 ×
Number of inhabited Houses	....	....	7,733 ×
New houses erected by Council	....	....	6
" " private enterprise....	....	....	35
Number of births registered : boys 184 ; girls 166			350
Number of illegitimate births : boys 5, girls 7			12
Still-births—Boys, 11 ; girls, 5.	....	....	16
Birth rate per 1000 of population	....	....	.... 13.15
Number of deaths : males 162 ; females 138			300
Deaths of infants under one year : boys, 7, girls, 6			13
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	....	....	.... 11.26
Infantile mortality, per 1,000 births	....	....	.... 36.62
Deaths from Cancer—Males, 18 ; Females, 17.			35
Deaths from Diphtheria : 1 male, 1 female	....	....	2
Deaths from Scarlet Fever : 1 male	....	....	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	Ni

Medical Officer's Report.



Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health of the district and the vital statistics for 1940. This is the ninth report I have had the honour to place before you.

The high standard of health which the district has enjoyed for many years was well maintained, although the number of notifiable disease cases reported was the highest on record for a considerable period.

Altogether 521 cases were reported, an increase of 384 on the previous year, and 373 more than in 1938. At first sight the comparative figures might appear somewhat disturbing, but the fact remains that the position last year was, if anything, an improvement on the year before.

This is the explanation. Measles and whooping cough became notifiable for the first time in November, 1939, and during the remaining two months of that year only nine cases of whooping cough were notified. From January to December, 1940, both months inclusive, no less than 380 cases of measles and 37 of whooping cough were reported.

It will thus be seen that the number of cases of other notifiable disease reported was smaller than in 1939.

Scarlet fever, which has been the most prevalent disease for three years past showed a gratifying decline during the year, the number of cases notified totalling 31, as compared with 53 the year before, and 55 in 1938.

Fortunately, most of the outbreaks were mild in type, but it was necessary to have a number of patients removed to hospital. Children under 14 years of age were the principal sufferers, and one death followed the disease.

It is very important that this disease, like diphtheria, should be treated in its early stages, and I cannot emphasise too strongly the necessity and advisability of people calling in the doctor at the first symptoms of a sore throat. I do not suggest that this will enable the doctor to prevent the disease, but it will certainly do much to check the seriousness of the outbreak.

Diphtheria cases, too, showed a substantial decrease, the number of cases falling from 29 in 1939, to 14. There were, however, two deaths from the malady, which is virulent in character and, in severe cases, often leaves the patient with a horrible form of paralysis.

As I have said, diphtheria is a virulent disease. It is also the third most important cause of death among children between the ages of one and five, and by far the most important between five and ten.

Diphtheria can be stamped out. Medical science has given us the means of protecting our children against the disease, and the Government has made the protective material available to all, free of cost.

I refer to the immunisation scheme, which is now in operation in this district. Many parents have already seen the wisdom of having their children inoculated, but there are still hundreds of others who have yet to realise the importance of the scheme.

Whether it is due to apathy or to fear that the injections might upset their children, I do not know. If it is due to apathy, then those parents should be made to realise their responsibility to their children. If fear is the reason, let me say at once that children will not suffer any after effects from the injections.

Most cases of diphtheria occur between the months of October and March, and those parents who have not yet taken advantage of the immunisation scheme should do so at once so as to safeguard their children against the risks of next winter.

I do urge upon members of the Council to support me in this campaign by emphasising on every possible occasion the importance of having children protected against the disease.

Of the 14 cases of tuberculosis reported during the year nine were pulmonary, and three of the patients were removed to hospital. The number represents a decrease of three on the totals for 1939 and 1938.

For the treatment of tubercular cases, hospitals are provided by Derbyshire County Council at Walton, near Chesterfield, and Bretby, near Burton-on-Trent. Patients are also visited in their homes from time to time by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

The number of cases on the register for the past five years is as follows :—

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Pulmonary ...	152	107	106	124	129
Non-Pulmonary ...	42	41	37	38	40

Three of the four cases of **cerebro-spinal fever** notified proved fatal, and death followed in 11 of the 28 cases of **pneumonia**. One child was affected by **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**, as compared with three the year before, and one case of **Enteric (Typhoid) Fever** was reported.

Erysipelas cases numbered ten, double the total for the previous year, and once again there was only one notification of **Puerperal Pyrexia**.

The vital statistics are satisfactory on the whole. The number of deaths registered during 1940 was 13 more than in 1939, and the death rate was 11.26 as against 10.64 and 11.19 in 1938.

Births, too, showed an increase. In 1939 there were 277 births—145 boys and 132 girls—but last year the total registered was 350—184 boys and 166 girls—of which number 12 were illegitimate. The comparative birth rate for the past three years is as follows :

1940, 13.14 ; 1939, 10.27 ; 1938, 14.31.

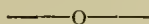
The infantile mortality rate for 1940 showed a big improvement on the previous year, when it was 79.42 per 1,000 births. Last year the rate was 36.62.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.



Comparative figures of diseases notified during the past three years are as follows :—

	1938.	1939.	1940.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	13	10	9
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	4	7	5
Scarlet Fever ...	55	53	31
Diphtheria ...	36	29	14
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever ...	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	4
Erysipelas ...	9	5	10
Meningitis ...	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	3	1
Polio-myelitis ...	2	1	—
Pneumonia ...	24	17	28
Measles ...	—	—	380
Whooping Cough ...	—	9	37
TOTALS ...	148	137	521

Cases of Notifiable Diseases at varying ages during 1940.

AGE GROUPS.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Under 1 year	1 year	2 — "	3 — "	4 — "	5 — "	10 — "	15 — "	20 — "	35 — "	45 — "	65 — "		Total
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	1	4	12	6	2	2	2	...	...	31
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	5	1	...	...	...	14
Enteric Fever (including para-typhoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	6	15	3	1
Pneumonia	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	7	...	28
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	380
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	37
Tuberculosis pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	9
" non "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Totals	2	1	2	2	1	6	18	14	7	18	12	24	3	521

Sanitary Inspectors' Report.

—o—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

There has been no change in the staff of the Health Department, which is supervised by a part-time Medical Officer for the whole area, and one Sanitary Inspector for each of the two districts. The Sanitary Inspectors are also the Building Surveyors in their respective areas.

The number of houses in the district is 7,783. Forty-one new houses were erected during the year, 35 by private enterprise, and six by the local authority.

The laying of new water mains and the scrapping of the existing mains in the parishes of Dethick, Lea and Holloway, Crich and South Wingfield, has been completed, and as a result of this work houses in the parishes have now an adequate supply of water.

Schemes for the chlorination of water supplies in the Duffield and Crich Joint Water Areas are now being prepared by the Council's Water Engineers.

Improvements and additions are still required at certain of the outfall works, but this work must be deferred until the end of hostilities. Work has, however, been completed on the new disposal works at Lower Kilburn and the modernising of the Outfall Works at Duffield.

At Shipley, the new sewerage scheme is in the course of construction. The scheme is to lay sewers to connect with the Ilkeston sewage system and does not involve the construction of disposal or pumping works as the contours permit of gravitation throughout.

In the district there are :—

239 Privy Middens,
1,897 Pail Closets,
5,349 Water Closets and
11 Trough Closets.

During the year the following conversions were made :—

Privy middens to W.C.	...	...	...	18
Pail closets to W.C.	...	...	...	32

Scavenging in the area is carried out, as in previous years, partly by direct labour, by contract and by householders themselves.

A salvage scheme is in operation, but this requires some reorganisation and steps are being taken to improve the collection of various materials.

The following reports have been made to the County Council :

<i>Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of Notices. Informal.</i>	<i>Formal.</i>	<i>Nuisances abated.</i>		
1010	546	52	615		
	<i>Number on Register.</i>	<i>In- spections</i>	<i>Notices served.</i>	<i>Nuisances abated.</i>	
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	685	524	4	4	
Bakchouses ....	....	6	25	1	1
Slaughterhouses	....	24	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	....	1	20	—	—
Totals	....	716	569	5	5

Gentlemen, we have the honour to remain, Your obedient Servants,

JAMES LAYCOCK,

Sanitary Inspector, Allestree

W. G. COOPER,

Sanitary Inspector, Whatstandwell

This table shows the causes of the deaths registered during the year :

	M.	F.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	2
Syphilitic diseases	1	—
Influenza	10	1
Cancer	18	18
Diabetes	1	2
Heart disease	44	29
Other circulatory disease	6	4
Bronchitis	8	9
Pneumonia	7	4
Other respiratory disease	3	2
Ulcer of stomach	2	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Other digestive disease	7	5
Nephritis	4	8
Maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	—	3
Congenital debility, etc.	3	2
Suicide	1	1
Road traffic accidents	6	—
Other violent causes	8	9
Other causes	27	32
TOTAL	162	138

